

NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The following text was released today (Friday, October 22, 1976) in Tokyo:

The first exhibition of treasures from the Tokugawa family of Japan will begin a three-cities tour of the United States in April 1977 at the National Gallery of Art, Washington. The exhibition was announced today in Tokyo by Mr. Yoshinobu Tokugawa, Director of the Tokugawa Museum.

The Tokugawa Collection: Nō Robes and Masks will be shown at the National Gallery of Art from April 10 to May 22, 1977; also Japan House Gallery, New York, New York from June 1 to July 17, 1977 and the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, Texas from July 27 to September 7, 1977. Arrangements for the exhibition were made at the initiative of the Japan Society of New York.

The Tokugawa Museum's incomparable collection of Nō robes, masks, and accessories will be represented by 145 objects.

The Tokugawa Museum, opened in 1935, was founded by the nineteenth lord of Owari, Yoshichika Tokugawa, a direct descendant of the first shōgun, Ieyasu Tokugawa. The Museum stands near Nagoya Castle, for over two hundred and fifty years the residence of the Owari Tokugawas and a sight familiar to travelers in Japan.

The Tokugawa family established Nō as the official theatre of Japan in the Tokugawa Period (1615-1868), and Nō remains a principal aesthetic feature of Japanese culture. The exhibition emphasizes the robe as it evolved over several hundreds of years, for in it the art of Nō may be said to achieve perfection.

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The Tokugawa Collection is the largest private collection of Japanese art in the world, and central to it are the Nō treasures, for these consist exclusively of objects passed down from generation to generation within the Owari house.

The selection of the exquisite robes and masks shown in this exhibition represents the outstanding results of the support of Nō over hundreds of years by one of Japan's great families of lords, the Owari Tokugawa.

The Tokugawa Collection: Nō Robes and Masks is made possible by a generous grant from the Coca-Cola Company, Atlanta and Tokyo. As well, the exhibition is one of the first in the United States to benefit from indemnification under the Arts and Artifacts Indemnity Act and Regulations recently enacted by the United States Congress.

J. Carter Brown, Director, National Gallery of Art, Rand Castile, Director, Japan House Gallery, and Richard F. Brown, Director, Kimbell Art Museum, were in Tokyo on behalf of their institutions together with a spokesman on behalf of Coca-Cola Company Chairman, J. Paul Austin, and participated with Mr. Tokugawa in the announcement.

Unique in its scholarly focus and historical richness among exhibitions held in the United States from the great museums and collections of Japan, The Tokugawa Collection: Nō Robes and Masks will, it is believed, richly enhance understanding between the people of the United States and the people of Japan.

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